

Helen Thomas quotes regarding Palestine

I knew I'd hit the third rail. You cannot say anything about Israel in this country. But I've lived with this cause for many years. Everybody knows my feelings that the Palestinians have been shortchanged in every way. Sure, the Israelis have a right to exist but where they were born, not to come and take someone else's home. I've had it up to here with the violations against the Palestinians. Why shouldn't I say it? I knew exactly what I was doing I was going for broke. I had reached the point of no return. You finally get fed up.

Well, there's no understanding of the Palestinians at all. I mean, they're living there and these people want to come and take their homes and land and water and kill their children and kill them. How many are still under arrest in Israel never been charged, never been tried, never been convicted? Thousands. Why? Meanwhile, we keep giving Israel everything.

What I meant was they should stay where they are because they're not being persecuted not since World War II, not since 1945. If they were, we sure would hear about it. Instead, they initiated the Jackson-Vanik law, which said the U.S. would not trade with Russia unless it allowed unlimited Jewish emigration. But it was not immigration to the United States, which would have been fine with me. It was to go to Palestine and uproot these people, throw them out of their homes, which they have done through several wars. That's not fair. I want people to understand why the Palestinians are upset. They are incarcerated and living in an open prison. I say to the Israelis, "Get out of people's homes!" It's unacceptable to have soldiers knocking on a door at three in the morning and saying, "This is my home." And forcing people out of homes they've lived in for centuries? What is this? How can anybody accept it? I mean,

Jewish-only roads? Would anyone tolerate something like that in America? White-only roads?

The Palestinians are deprived of owning these roads. This is their land. I'm sorry, but we're talking about foreigners who came and said, "God gave this land to us." [Former Israeli prime minister Â-Yitzhak] Rabin said, "Where's the deed?" I mean, come on! Do you know that an Arab Palestinian trying to go home to see his mother has to go through 10 checkpoints and then is held there, while an American tourist can go through right like that? The Palestinian people have to carry their kids to hospitals and are not allowed to drive cars and so forth. What is this? No American Jew would tolerate that sort of treatment here against blacks or anyone else. Why do they allow it over there? And why do they send my American tax dollars to perpetuate it?

But who wouldn't fight for their country? What would any American do if their land was being taken? Remember Pearl Harbor. The Palestinian violence is to protect what little remains of Palestine. The suicide bombers act out of despair and desperation. Three generations of Palestinians have been forced out of their homes by Israelis and into refugee camps. And the Israelis are still bulldozing Palestinians' homes in East Jerusalem. Remember, Menachem Begin invented terrorism as his MO and bragged about it in his first book. That's how Israel was created, aided and abetted by U.S. money and arms. To annex and usurp an occupied people's country is illegal under international law. The Israelis know that, but their superior military force has always prevailed against the indigenous people.

If you have a home and you're kicked out of that home, you don't come and kick someone else out. Anti-Semite? The Israelis are not even Semites! They're Europeans, and they've come from somewhere else. But even if they were Semites, they would still have

no right to usurp other people's land.

Who are these people (Jews)? Why do they think they're so deserving? The slaughter of Jews stopped with World War II. I had two brothers and many relatives who fought in that war against Hitler. We believed in it. Every American family was in that fight. But they (Ashkenazis) were liberated since then. And yet they carry on the victimization. American people do not know that the Israeli lobbyists have intimidated them into believing every Jew is a persecuted victim foreverwhile they are victimizing Palestinians.

Power over the White House, power over Congress. Everybody is in the pocket of the Israeli lobbies, which are funded by wealthy supporters, including those from Hollywood. Same thing with the financial markets. There's total control.

I want you to look at the Congress that just came in. Do you think [New York Democratic senator Charles] Schumer and Lehtinen whatever her name is in Florida are going to be pro-Arab? No. But they're going to be very influential. Eric Cantor, the majority leader of the Republicans, do you think he's going to be for the Arabs? h--- no! I'm telling you, you cannot get 330 votes in Congress for anything that's pro-Arab. Nothing. If you're not in, you're eased out, just as Senator William Fulbright was in the 1960s. Congressman Paul Findley from a little old rural district in Illinois made the mistake of shaking hands with Yasir Arafat years ago. It ended up costing him his reelection. He later wrote a book called They Dare to Speak Out about how impossible it is to have a position in this country that takes on Israel. Maybe there is a handful that can, but in general you cannot speak against any Zionist movement in this country.

There's nothing wrong with remembering it, but why do we have to

constantly remember? We're not at fault. I mean, if they're going to put a Holocaust museum in every city in Germany, that's fine with me. But we didn't do this to the Jews. Why do we have to keep paying the price and why do they keep oppressing the Palestinians? Do the Jews ever look at themselves? Why are they always right? Because they have been oppressed throughout history, I know. And they have this persecution. That's true, but they shouldn't use that to dominate.

I get where you're leading with this. You know damn well the power they have. It isn't the two percent. It's real power when you own the White House, when you own these other places in terms of your political persuasion. Of course they have power. Well, you know damn well they have power.

It was certainly on my mind back then. The United Nations Partition Plan was being debated at the UN and in the Arab community, and I knew what the Arabs were going through since I have an Arab background. I was part of that community. Like I said, I've never hesitated to tell my views to all my friends. They knew exactly where I stood. But I finally wanted to speak the truth. And I think I'm old enough to get away with it. Well, almost. Not quite.

They want to know if I'm crazy? You have to be crazy to criticize Israel? You have to be crazy to criticize tyranny? I learned before Hitler that you have to stand up for something. You have to stand up. We always have to take a stand against human tyranny wherever it occurs.

But what am I supposed to do, love every Jew because they want to take Palestine? It's a real cause with me. They should have a conscience and they don't if that's what they're going to do. Is there such a thing as a conscience? I think there is. Stop taking what doesn't belong to you! Stop killing these people. These children

throw stones at them, and they shoot them. Where is the Jewish conscience? I want to know. Have some feeling. They can't just come in and say, "This is my home," knock on the door at three in the morning and have the Israeli military take them out. That's what happens. And that's what happened to the Jews in Germany. Why do they inflict that same pain on people who did nothing to them?

We are owned by the propagandists against the Arabs. There's no question about that. Congress, the White House and Hollywood, Wall Street, are owned by the Zionists. No question, in my opinion. They put their money where their mouth is. We're being pushed into a wrong direction in every way.

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